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MEDIA ADVISORY

United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service

Information Staff 5601 Sunnyside Ave. Mail Stop 5129

Beltsville, MD 20705-5129

Don Comis (301) 504-1625

ARS CELEBRATES 90 YEARS OF NORTHERN PLAINS RESEARCH

WASHINGTON, July 2 -- The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) will celebrate 90 years of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) research in the Northern Plains, on July 22nd. ARS is the USDA's chief scientific research agency.

The celebration will be held at the ARS Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory in Mandan, N.D. Scientists at the 2,400-acre facility conduct research on sustainable crop and livestock systems, diverse cropping systems, biofuel production, forage crop breeding and soil carbon storage. The anniversary celebration will be the theme for this year's "Friends and Neighbors Day" at the lab.

WHAT: "A Proud Past, Promising Future; Celebrating 90 Years of

Agricultural Research"; A public field day featuring speakers,

entertainment, walks, tours and a barbecue.

WHO: Jon Hanson, research leader, ARS Northern Great Plains Research

Laboratory, Mandan, N.D. invites media and the general public to

attend and participate.

WHEN: Thursday, July 22, 2004 - Facilities tours begin at 1 p.m. (CDT);

crop and livestock tour at 2 p.m.

WHERE: Highway 6 South, about 3 miles south of Mandan, which is across

the Missouri River west of Bismarck, N.D.

DIRECTIONS: From west Main Street in Mandan, turn south to ND Highway 6.

The lab entrance is the first right turn past the Heart River bridge.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: call (701) 667-3000.